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Docket No.: 1614.1215

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Masahiro KATAOKA, et al.

Serial No. 10/073,245

Group Art Unit: 2172

Confirmation No. 8867

Filed: February 13, 2002

Examiner: Cam-Y Truong

For: FILE PROCESSING METHOD, DATA PROCESSING APPARATUS AND STORAGE MEDIUM

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: BOX AF

Sir:

This is filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination and in response to the Office Action mailed December 22, 2003, and having a period for response set to expire on March 22, 2004. A Petition for a one-month extension of time, together with the requisite fee for same, is submitted herewith, thereby extending the period for response to April 22, 2004.

Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested. The following amendments and remarks are respectfully submitted.